

The Modesto Bee

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Volunteers Set to Troll Rivers for Trash in Modesto Area

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Volunteers will set out on two Saturdays this month to remove trash along rivers in the Modesto area.

The gatherings on the Tuolumne and Stanislaus rivers are part of the Great Sierra River Cleanup, being held on various days this month in and near the mountain range. The Stanislaus River cleanup will be held Saturday at four sites. The Tuolumne River event is Sept. 29 at two locations.

"We hope that an unprecedented number of volunteers join us not only for the cleanup but for a morning of enjoying our local river and park," said Karlha Davies, director of the Nature & Neighborhood Project at the Tuolumne River Trust. Both cleanups are 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers should bring water, sunscreen and gloves. The sponsors will provide lunch.

More details:

- Stanislaus River: Volunteers of all ages will work at Caswell Memorial State Park and Oak Grove Park, both near Ripon; Jacob Myers Park, Riverbank; and where the river runs by the Oakdale Shopping Center. A barbecue will be held at Myers at noon. Prizes will be awarded for the most trash picked up by one person, the most unusual item, the best trash sculpture, the biggest piece and the heaviest.

The cleanup is sponsored by the East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District, Gilton Solid Waste Management, Oakdale Irrigation District, Oakdale Lions Club, REI, and the Stanislaus County Fish and Wildlife Committee. More information is at (209) 581-7558 or www.eaststanrcd.org.

- Tuolumne River: Volunteers of all ages are welcome at Legion Park, 1600 Legion Park Drive, where the work will be done on foot and in canoes. Volunteers 8 and older will walk the banks near John Thurman Field, 601 Neece Drive.

Businesses are urged to organize employee teams and set up booths. A lunch, raffle and performance by the Funstrummers Ukulele Band will follow at Legion Park. The event is sponsored by the Tuolumne River Trust, the city of Modesto and Stanislaus County. More information is at (209) 236-0330 or www.tuolumne.org.

Information on other **Great Sierra River Cleanup** events is at www.sierranevada.ca.gov.